

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /060 W

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P 022121Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7602

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS PRIORITY 0256

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 35728

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR IT

SUBJECT: GISCARD "WORKING" VISIT TO ITALY

REF: PARIS 035283

1. IN PREVIEW GISCARD'S QUICKY TRIP TO PISA NOW UNDER WAY, QUAI'S ITALIAN DESK OFFICER DEBENEST EMPHASIZED INFORMAL "WORKING" CHARACTER OF VISIT. BOTH QUAI AND ITALIAN POLCOUNSELOR, WITH WHOM WE HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED VISIT, EXPLAIN CHOICE OF PISA ON GROUNDS THAT GISCARD WAS ADAMANT IN REFUSING TO BE PUT THROUGH PROTOCOL REQUIRED IN ROME, PARTICULARLY SINCE THIS WOULD HAVE INVOLVED CALLING ON POPE. WE OURSELVES SUSPECT THIS RELUCTANCE MAY HAVE LESS TO DO WITH PROTOCOL, TO WHICH GISCARD IS NOT AT ALL AVERSE IN PARIS, THAN TO HIS SENSITIVITY TO POTENTIAL EFFECT OF PAPAL VISIT ON HIS FRENCH DOMESTIC POLITICS, INCLUDING HIGHLY EMOTIONAL ISSUE POSED BY MONSIGNOR LEFEVRE.

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2. FRENCH CHOICE OF PROVINCIAL VENUE IS ALSO INTERESTING IN ANOTHER RESPECT, SINCE AVOWED PURPOSE OF VISIT, ACCORDING TO QUAI, IS TO SHOW FRENCH SUPPORT TO, AND TO ENHANCE STATURE OF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IN ITS SEVERE DOUBLE DOMESTIC CRISIS, INVOLVING BOTH POLITICS AND ECONOMICS. WHILE FRENCH INTENTION THIS RESPECT UNQUESTIONABLY SINCERE, GISCARD WAS EVIDENTLY NOT PREPARED TO DO SO TO EXTENT OF GRANTING ITALIANS NORMAL TWO-DAY VISIT IN ROME, WHICH WOULD PERHAPS HAVE HAD GREATER PUBLIC IMPACT.

3. QUAI IS ALSO EMPHASIZING THAT FRANCO-ITALIAN CONSULTATIONS AGREED TO DURING FONMIN FORLANI'S VISIT WOULD NOT BE "INSTITUTIONALIZED, AS IS NOW THE CASE WITH REGULAR FRENCH-FRG AND FRENCH-UK SUMMITS. WHILE ITALIANS, ACCORDING TO REPORTS CURRENT HERE, WERE MOST ANXIOUS TO BE GIVEN SAME TREATMENT AS BRITS, AND SO BE PART OF FRENCH "DIRECTORATE," GISCARD'S CHOICE OF GIVING THEM ONLY A DAY IN PISA THEREFORE SEEMS INTENDED TO GRANT ITALIANS HONORABLE BUT STILL DISTINCTLY SECOND-RANKING PLACE IN FIRMAMENT OF FRENCH CONVERSATION PARTNERS.

4. AS FOR SUBSTANCE QUAI SAYS THERE ARE NO FIRM AGENDA. KEY THEME WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE ONGOING DISCUSSION ITALIAN AND FRENCH DOMESTIC SITUATIONS. HOWEVER QUAI IMAGINES ITALIANS MAY ALSO SEEK FRENCH SUPPORT, MOST LIKELY WITH THE IMF. IN ADDITION FRENCH MEDITERRANEAN POLICY, EC ENLARGEMENT (GREECE, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL) AND MALTA MAY WELL BE IN THE RUNNING.

5. ACCORDING TO TICKERS RECEIVED AS THIS BEING TYPED GISCARD HAS ALREADY GIVEN INTERVIEW TO "CORRIERE DE LA SERA" STRONGLY ENDORSING EC ENLARGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN TO "REEQUILIBRATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE WHICH, AFTER THE ENLARGEMENT OF 1972, BECAME STRONGLY ORIENTED TOWARD THE NORTH." (COMMENT: BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE TOMATOES?) GISCARD REPORTEDLY ALSO TOLD ITALIANS THAT "SOLIDARITY IS THE BASIS OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS" AND THAT NEITHER ITALY NOR THE UK SHOULD

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HAVE TO GO BEYOND "THE SYSTEMS OF SOLIDARITY" WHICH ALREADY EXIST.  
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## Message Attributes

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